

BOOK REVIEW.

A NEW LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN HEMIPTERA.

The New York Entomological Society has recently published a "Check List of the Hemiptera of America, North of Mexico," by Professor E. P. Van Duzee, the first complete enumeration of the group as found in the Nearctic region and a most valuable contribution, fully upholding the reputation of its author as the foremost American Hemipterist. Though modestly designated a "check list," the paper gives full synonymy, dates, a complete view of the present classification of the group, and the general distribution of the species, in addition to the numbered list of forms. Thus the work is similar in character to Oshanin's excellent "Katalog der Paläarktischen Hemipteren" (1912), making it easy to draw faunistic comparisons. Professor Van Duzee has adhered strictly to his well-known nomenclatorial beliefs, applying the principle of priority not only to generic and specific designations but also to those of higher groups, a procedure which seems logical and results happily in the retention of most of the long-used family names.

In going over the work critically, I have noted a few points to which exception might be taken. Personally I believe that the Corizidæ, Alydidæ, Meziridæ (Dysodiidæ), and Piesmidæ should have family rather than subfamily rank, but further studies, especially in Embryology, will be necessary to answer finally this and many other questions in the taxonomy of the higher groups. Perhaps it will not be out of place to suggest that submission of the parts of the work to specialists on the various families would have improved it in certain details, as may be noted here and there, for instance in the families Lygæidæ, Nepidæ, and Corixidæ. As in most catalogues, a large number of new names are proposed and new synonymies given without explanations or references. It is to be hoped that in his large catalogue, or in a special paper, the author will fully explain synonymies proposed by himself, and give references to those proposed by others. The absence of such information in most catalogues has always seemed to me to be a serious defect.

In the Heteroptera I have noted the following points which call for comment:

- p. ix, 17, Neidiinæ should read Neidinæ.
- p. 4, Graphosominæ should read Graphosomatinae.
Podops is feminine.
- p. 8, No. 181, *hilaris* should read *hilare*.
- p. 8, Acanthosominæ should read Acanthosomatinae, according to the International Code ruling.
- p. 10, No. 236a, *C. distinctus* I consider a distinct species.
- p. 12, No. 288, *vittiger* should read *vittigera*.
- p. 13, Leptocorisiini should read Leptocorisini.
- p. 23, Lethiini should read Lethæini.
- p. xi, p. 25, Tingididæ should read Tingidæ, as indicated by Fabricius' use of the genitive *Tingis* (Syst. Rhyng., p. 124, footnote).
- p. 25, No. 639a, *C. cratægi* I consider a distinct species.
- p. 27, Ploiarioliinæ should read Ploiariolini.
- p. 30, No. 777a, *R. americanus* I consider a distinct species.
- p. 35, *Triphleps* is feminine.
- p. 41, Deræocoriaria should read Deræocoraria.
- p. 42, No. 1105, *amænus* should read *amæna*.
- p. 44, No. 1145, *instabile* should read *instabilis*.
No. 1147, *confluenta* should read *confluens*.
- p. 50, No. 1319, *stellata* should read *stellatus*.
No. 1324, *confluenta* should read *confluens*.
- p. 52, Belostomidæ should read Belostomatidæ as on p. xi.
Belostoma is neuter.

The conscientious preparation of such a work as this involves much painstaking labor, and every page gives evidence of how faithfully the author has done his task. Mistakes are unusually few and many long standing and oft repeated errors, large and small, are at last corrected. In this, his latest contribution, Professor Van Duzee has again laid entomologists under great obligations and has given a new impetus to American Hemipterology, as the lack of a scholarly list has been one of the chief reasons for the neglected condition of this group, which offers such a fertile field for systematic, biological, and economic researches.

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